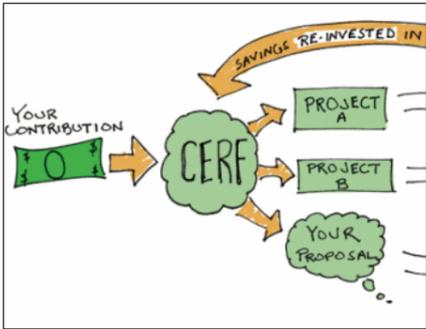


## CALVIN COLLEGE



SUSTAINABILITY PAGE 3



KICKSTARTER & COFFEE PAGE 4



FUN. PAGES 6 AND 11



EPISODE 7? PAGE 7

## Calvin reacts to Obama win

BY RACHEL HEKMAN  
Staff Writer

No matter which party you identify most strongly with, Tuesday night was a rollercoaster ride of emotions and expectations.

When the polls opened early Tuesday morning for the 2012 federal elections, pundits on both sides of the political spectrum were expecting a tight race with Democratic incumbent Barack Obama winning the swing states and eventually carrying the night.

Their predictions came true: after an extremely tight race that had Republican candidate Mitt Romney holding the popular vote for almost the entire night, Barack Obama won the 270 Electoral College votes required to secure the presidency.

Indeed, the focus that night was almost more on the Electoral College than on the individual candidates. A candidate must win more than half of the 538 electoral votes in order to carry the office. Since most states have a "winner-take-all" policy, meaning that the winner of the popular vote in a state takes all of the state's electoral votes, there is the potential for a situation in which the winner of the national popular vote loses the election based on the Electoral College.

For example, if candidate A wins lots of low-population states, which have very few electoral votes, and candidate B wins only

a few high-population states, which have quite a lot of electoral votes, candidate B would win the electoral vote — and therefore the

several hours, Romney held the advantage in both electoral votes and popular votes, having won the large eastern



WIKIMEDIA

**Obama/Biden won both the electoral and popular votes.**

presidency. The way the electoral votes are stacked, candidate B only needs to take 25 percent of the states in order to win. It has happened this way four times in American history, most recently in 2004.

Understandably, then, Republicans and Democrats alike watched Tuesday's election tickers with baited breath. For

states of Georgia and North Carolina. When Obama's electoral victory was reached and announced Wednesday morning shortly after midnight Eastern time, Romney was still leading by several million in the popular vote.

See "Election," page 5

## Students pitch ideas in Chicago

BY MATT MEDENDORP  
Staff Writer

60 seconds in an elevator with a stranger. 60 seconds of op-

portunity.

60 seconds to present yourself as a viable candidate this past Wednesday. On Wednesday, Oct. 24,

Calvin hosted the Chicago Job Fair. This is the first time in school history Calvin has sponsored a job fair some place other than Grand Rapids.

Two buses full of Calvin students departed at 7 a.m. to the University Club in downtown Chicago. Once there, students had the chance to interact with 16 potential employers and network with Calvin alumni over a pizza dinner.

However, this event took more than the work of one organization. Calvin's career development department partnered up with the Calvin Alumni Association in order to make this a successful and worthwhile job fair.

The event was the brainchild of Calvin alumnus Russ Clousing, an Alumni Association Board member. His goal was to contribute something new and valuable to

See "Chicago," page 3



FILE PHOTO

The fair provided an opportunity to present elevator pitches.

portunity. 60 seconds to present yourself as a viable candidate

this past Wednesday. On Wednesday, Oct. 24,

## Soccer storms ahead

BY ELIZABETH LAMOUREUX  
Staff Writer

As the Knights women's soccer team ended the regular season 15-4-1 overall, Calvin took the award for the MIAA Tournament Championship. The game on Saturday also counted as an automatic qualifying bid for the NCAA national tournament.

Last Friday, Calvin went head-to-head with Adrian College on the Knights' home field. The Knights scored 1-0 in the eighth minute. This was due to a goal rocketing in off a crossing pass by freshman Taylor Tenhamsel, assisted by freshman Paige Capel. The game went back and forth until the end, but the rest of the game resulted in no gain for either team. As the women recognized this victory, they headed straight into their next battle.

On Saturday, the Knights entered into the third match of the year with Hope, which ended up turning simply into a winner-take-all battle. The Knights were in it to win it. Calvin senior Elizabeth Cancel points out,

"Before the game, our team knew we had to play with our

Kelly Koets, assisted by junior Danielle Carter, made goal nine for the season in a pass of rebound in a scrum. This goal was made five minutes before the end of the period, and both teams headed straight into overtime.

A shot was made right from the start by Flying Dutch offensive player Raisa Yewah, but was saved by Knight keeper junior Ashton Hearn. After a foul on Hope, it seemed like the Knights would not give up on making that final shot. Three corner kicks and two shots were made on goal before the Knights came ahead 2-1. With 10 seconds remaining, Calvin earned a corner kick taken by Cancel. A goal was then made by Carter, tapping in off said corner kick, two seconds before the end of the time, pulling Calvin ahead to victory with its "golden goal." Cancel relives the excitement as she describes the scene:

"I took the corner kick. There was a scramble inside their box and somehow Danielle Carter managed to get her foot on the ball to put it in the goal. I saw the ball roll into the net. My heart and body was so emotionally and physically invested in the game that I couldn't help myself but to



PHOTO BY JESS KOSTER

**Kelly Koets made her ninth goal of the season on Saturday.**

whole heart and want it more than Hope. Sometimes these playoff games aren't necessarily about skill with regards to who the better team is, these games are about who wants it more and who is going to out work their opponent."

With 684 fans present at the Knights' Zuidema Field, this game was bound to bring cheering and enthusiasm as both teams played for the win. Although the weather was cold and overcast, both teams had many supporters.

Hope had possession, but was interfered with by a Calvin defender, causing an obvious penalty. Flying Dutch Lindsay Jipping stepped up to accept said penalty, and shot the ball to the back of the net, leaving the new score as 1-0 in the 53rd minute.

In the 86th minute, Calvin equalized the score as junior

cry tears of joy and celebrate with my teammates."

Hope dropped to 14-6-2 with the loss, but Calvin will return to play this weekend at Loras College against Aurora College from Ill. Hearn notes that it was, "a come from behind championship win against Hope; it couldn't have been written any better. We have worked hard all season as a team to accomplish what we accomplished on Saturday, to get into the NCAA tournament."

Smith, Carter and Ten Harmsel were named All-MIAA First Team after the tournament and freshman defender Sydney Kinney was named All-MIAA Second Team. This is Smith's third straight year on the list and the first year for Carter, Ten Harmsel and Kinney.

## Enrollment grows and diversifies in 2012

BY KYLE RODRIGUEZ  
News Co-editor

After enduring several years of smaller freshmen classes, the 2012 class has been a positive sign for Calvin officials on multiple fronts.

This year's freshmen and transfer class totals 1,085 students, the largest incoming class since 2007. The large class pushes Calvin's enrollment over 4,000 students for the first time in three years. The total of 4,008 students is up one percent from last year's numbers.

While the higher total numbers are a positive for the college, the more impressive numbers lie in the academic strength of this year's incoming class.

According to the Russ Bloem, Calvin's vice president of enrollment management, the freshmen academic credentials are notably stronger than last year's freshmen. Bloem emphasizes a 26 to 27 increase in the average ACT scores and a jump from 3.6 to 3.7 in average high school grade point averages.

"If you look back 10 years, we haven't seen an increase of that amount," Bloem said in a recent interview with MLive.

Bloem believes Calvin's new academic programs have contributed to both increased enrollment and attracting a stellar incoming class.

"You really have to have excellence in a wide range of programs," Bloem said. "Students are looking for different things."

The new year also brings a more diverse student body.

According to Calvin's Day 10 report, an annual look at enrollment, the current number of enrolled African-, Hispanic-, Asian- and Native-American

(AHANA) and international students is at an all-time high, 49 students more than last year. The total between the AHANA and international students makes up about 22 percent of Calvin's student body.

Admission counselor Bart Tocci says the increase in diversity at Calvin has been very intentional.

"We [admissions] have a whole team for international students," said Tocci. "We also have what I think are really good awards for

"It's a goal for the college, and I think it's a big goal," said Tocci. "It's kind of like putting your money where your mouth is."

And minority students are not the only undergraduates benefiting from scholarships.

Calvin's Day 10 report reveals that 2,272 students are currently receiving scholarships, over 59 percent of undergraduates. Both numbers are easily 10-year highs, continuing the five-year trend of dramatic increases in scholarships awarded. Since 2008, the

said Arendt.

But Arendt says that overall, the financial aid by Calvin is an attempt to provide the Calvin experience to as many students as possible.

"Calvin has a very egalitarian model of financial aid; we try to be as accessible to as many students as we possibly can," said Arendt.

"A lot schools have an economic aiding models, where they're really targeting aid to a particular set of students. But we are very transparent, saying this is what you need for a merit-based scholarship, and you apply for those when you apply for admission."

The one concern about the numbers from this year's report is the continual decline of alumni children that enroll at Calvin, or "legacy" students. This year's enrollment includes the lowest legacy numbers in the last ten years, and continues the downward trend that that began in 2008.

But Arendt says that despite the decline, Calvin still has a comparatively excellent standard for legacy.

"If you were to do a comparative analysis of legacy percentages at Calvin versus another university in the CCCU [Council for Christian Colleges and Universities], our numbers are still incredibly high," said Arendt.

Arendt admits that the changing numbers are significant, but argues that it may not be such a bad thing.

"One of the things this means for Calvin is an ever-changing and shifting demographic," said Arendt. "That places an importance on staying connected to your alumni, but also trying to introduce the Calvin experience to new students. There's a freshness to that that I think is exciting as well."

"We can't underestimate the value in that, and the uniqueness that it offers to our community."



A record high for the college, 22 percent of this year's Calvin students are international or AHANA students.

AHANA students."

Tocci emphasized programs like Entrada, which ends in a \$4,000 scholarship, renewable for up to four years, for any student who completes the program and comes to Calvin. Another scholarship specifically available for minority students is the Mosaic award, a \$4,000 award, also renewable for up to four years.

Tocci views the scholarships available as proof of Calvin's emphasis on increasing student diversity.

percent of students receiving scholarships has risen nearly 14 percent.

Director of Admissions Counseling Ben Arendt explained that part of that increase has been targeted at academically exceptional students, aiding in the impressive academic resume in this year's class.

"Part of the increase you're noticing is coming from our Honor's Fellows Program, a new initiative we started this year to attract those high-level scholars,"

## Hekman Library's Heritage Hall gets a makeover

BY GRACE RUITER  
News Co-editor

"This semester we have as many users in our reading room daily as we used to have during an entire week," said Dick Harms, curator of the archives at Heritage Hall. Harms attributes the surge in popularity to recent renovations to the building. Heritage Hall, located on the main floor of the library, houses extensive archives for the Christian Reformed Church, Calvin College and Dutch Americans, as well as the rare book collection. Heritage Hall is not to be confused with the Henry Meeter Center where the John Calvin collection is located.

The expansion of the reading room and the addition of power and data ports for researchers have helped draw more visitors to the collection. However, most renovations arose from an effort to preserve the one-of-a-kind books and records housed in the hall.

"State-of-the-art environment controls were installed so that we can maintain a constant temperature and relative humidity, which

is absolutely necessary for long-term preservation of paper-based materials," Harms explained.

The installation of fire suppression and equipment to prevent damage from water leaks will also help keep the books and documents safe.

Three large, open rooms have replaced the original layout of

boasts a wide variety of titles, some of which are extremely valuable.

Schemper describes a number of government pamphlets from the early twentieth century as being especially rare. One such pamphlet from World War II is a particularly valuable text. The pamphlet, entitled "This Is Ann:

able simply because of their age. Schemper says the oldest complete book dates all the way back to 1492. The 84-page devotional tract by Gerard Zerbolt was published in Basel, entitled "De reformation[n]e viriu[m] anime."

Harms states that the rare book room boasts a significant political text: the first British periodical to publish the United States Declaration of Independence in Great Britain. A number of other interesting texts can also be found there.

"We have the largest collection of Dutch-language periodicals published in the U.S. and more than 500 manuscript collections documenting the history of the Dutch in North America since the 1840s.

Among these collections are more than 4,000 letters written by an immigrant to friends and relatives in the Netherlands describing their experiences," he said. Books and records cannot be checked out

by students. However, from 8 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday students can visit the reading room under staff supervision to learn about Dr. Seuss's on malaria contraction or even flip through a book published the same year Columbus sailed the ocean blue.



The renovations of Heritage Hall included an expansion of the reading room, but the main purpose was to continue to preserve the rare books in the collection.

twelve different rooms, hallways and closets, allowing for far more storage than before. New shelves also make better use of the space so that more books can be added to the rare books collection.

Lugene Schemper, the collection's curator, says that it already

She's Dying to Meet You," was designed to show soldiers how malaria is contracted. Although the illustrator is unidentified, Schemper says it is "clearly none other than Theodore Geisel," better known as Dr. Seuss.

Some of the books are valu-

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*Chimes is the official newspaper of Calvin College. The mission of Chimes is to serve the community of Calvin College in a variety of ways: we aim to reform, review, challenge and foster dialogue within the community.*

# Sustainability project good for environment, easy on budget

BY JULIA LAPLACA  
Guest Writer

The Calvin Energy Recovery Fund, or CERF, is a sustainability project that saves Calvin College energy and money every day.

According to Ryan Hoff, a senior engineering major and the CERF intern, CERF has saved Calvin \$31,372, 343 metric tons of carbon dioxide and 498,148 kilowatt hours of energy since its creation in 2008.

CERF's fund began with an initial grant, but is now supported by its projects.

"My favorite part [of CERF] is that once [a project] is going it doesn't rely on money from the outside to keep it going, unlike many sustainability projects; we just recoperate the money saved and put it back in the account," Hoff said.

The money moves in a circular direction from CERF to the implementation of energy-saving ideas. The money saved in the project goes back to CERF until the project is paid off. CERF continues to collect the savings for another five years, thereby ensuring enough capital for future CERF projects.

"Everyone wins," Hoff claims about the project's set-up.

"The computer shut-down project," Hoff describes, was the first CERF initiative.

"Computers that are con-

stantly turned on waste a ton of electricity and energy. CERF got technology that would shut the computer down when not in use," Hoff explained.

"The project cost around

\$46,788, but with the money saved through the upgrades, it will be paid off in close to four years.

"Anyone can submit ideas for projects," Hoff said.

The Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) reviews the proposals — making sure they will fit CERF requirements.

Hoff is eager for students to share the ideas. He said it's students who can really see the energy inefficiencies and waste occurring around campus

Hoff mentioned several proj-

When you think about it, with every student taking a 10-minute shower every day — we could save a ton of water," Hoff explained.

CERF also hopes to install occupancy sensors in all the bathrooms on campus. This way, the lights would turn on automatically when someone enters the room. Hoff says the sensors already installed in the Science Building are working well and they hope to spread the good results all over campus.

CERF has been highly praised by the Calvin community at large.

"We give to CERF because it's an innovative program that benefits Calvin's campus, its students and God's creation," said alumni Beth and Matt Dykstra.

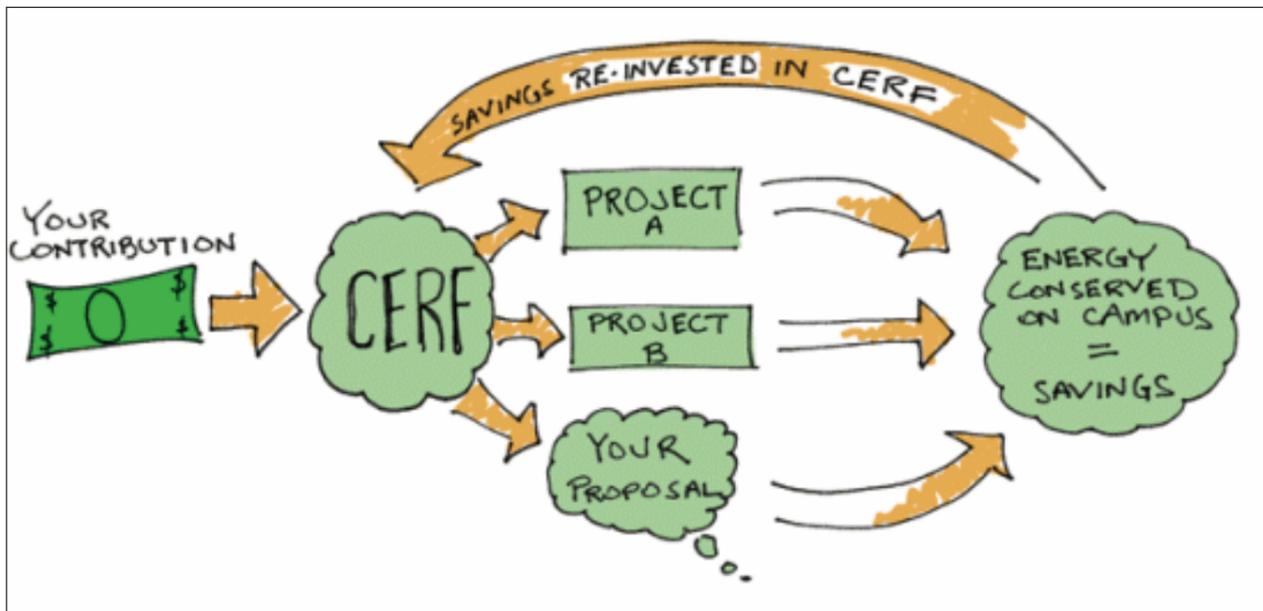
Henry DeVries, vice president of administration finance and information services, said:

"The college supports CERF because it empowers our students to realize they can make a difference."

CERF even won public acclaim for Calvin in 2010 when the West Michigan Business Review gave CERF the "Greatest Green Initiative" award.

"CERF started fairly small, with lower scale projects," Hoff recalls.

"Now the project has started to feed money back faster and we've picked more donors. The CERF of the future will have the ability to do some great things."



As demonstrated by the above diagram, Calvin Energy Recovery Fund is designed to be a self-sustaining project, as all of the savings generated from the projects are reinvested into CERF.

## CHICAGO: business pitches

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the board. "I was asked to be on the alumni board about a year ago," said Clousing. "Being on the board I wanted to bring to it something actionable, something valuable, and tangible."

Clousing, who has worked in the Chicago business community for more than 20 years, wondered why there hadn't yet been an official networking event in the Chicago area. Clousing noted that Illinois is the second-largest contributor of Calvin students, and has a large amount of alumni gainfully employed in the region.

Clousing used the connections he and other Chicago area alumni have to encourage big name employers to come out for the fair.

"These are not ma and pop, small businesses," said Clousing. "14 out of 16 companies here are publicly traded."

The employer represented at the event included big name companies such as Deloitte, BMO Harris Bank, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois and Arthur J Gallagher & Co.

He planned the Chicago Job Fair in hope of encouraging future events such as this in the area, as well as setting a precedent for alumni-student interaction in Chicago community.

"The end goal is to foster a tighter relationship between the alumni association and the school, between the alumni association and the students," said Clousing. He said another goal is "to assist the students out of the transition out of college into work life and to keep fostering and building that community."

Students attending the fair seemed to have similar goals. For junior business marketing major Vance Venhuizen, networking was the main focus of the event.

"I came here hopefully to set up some initial communication, a little bit of networking and be able to keep in contact with employers for the next few years," said Venhuizen.

Venhuizen currently has a marketing internship with H&R Block, something he thinks has contributed to his success here.

"I've had some leads, hopefully [I'll] be able to keep in touch with people, have their business cards, probably connect with them on LinkedIn," he said. "Also, I plan to come here next year if they're here again."

But the event offered networking opportunities to students of all class levels and majors.

"I'm a sophomore, so this is just the beginning phases of networking and getting in contact with people for the summer," said communication major Ally Alderink.

However, these networking and employment opportunities don't simply appear out of nowhere. Planning an event like this takes a significant amount of work, according to career counselor Meredith Segur.

"Our main role was getting the students signed up and getting the students and making sure that they're well prepared for the event, resumes in good shape," said Segur.

Before the event, the career development department worked diligently to help students streamline their resumes and practice their elevator pitch, as well as teaching them important networking skills.

According to Segur, the partnership between the career development department and the Calvin Alumni Association distinguished this from other fairs.

"[The job fair] was pretty unique in that it was a collaboration between our office and the alumni office," she said. "Because we're in Grand Rapids we really relied on the alumni in Chicago to get the employers here and to recruit the employers to participate." But for Clousing, in the end, all of the hard work and effort was well worth it.

"You see this room full of students," he said, "and it's all worth it."

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## Nonprofit aids community

BY JOSH DELACY  
Staff Writer

At Eastown Ministries, a punching bag hangs next to a painting of a cross.

"We're between the street and the church," said director Jim Carpenter. "The kids aren't going to go to church, but they'll come here, because we've got basketball programs and stuff they want to do, and they'll come as they are."

Eastown Ministries, led by Rev. Jim and Carol Carpenter, offers a Christian message to a community where shootings, teen pregnancy and drug abuse are regular occurrences. The nonprofit ministry is located at 610 Benjamin Ave. and hosts high school, middle school and elementary programs, as well as an adult Bible study.

Attendees are almost all African-American and most come from broken homes.

"This may be their only connection they have to anything spiritual," Jim Carpenter said.

"When we first started here, the neighborhood was much

ing lock-ins, movie nights and pool parties.

In January, the Carpenters hope to start a job-training program for teens in cooperation with Wegewood Christian Services.

"We look at it as, if we have a kid, there's this window of opportunity," Jim Carpenter said. "24/7 when they leave here, they have a lot of negative influences: drugs, a lot of the neighborhood people — we used to have a lot more gang stuff going on ... Just a lot of things to pull them the wrong way."

Jim and Carol Carpenter began volunteering with Eastown Ministries in 1997, which was then headed by Gordon and Eileen Brouwer.

In 2001, the Brouwers retired. During the search for a new director, Jim remembered thinking, "Here we are, a small ministry. We don't have any money to pay anybody, so who in the world is going to basically give full time to do something and not get paid?"

Although Jim did not con-



FILE PHOTO

**Eastown Ministries sponsors a basketball team and holds a host of events including lock-ins, movie nights and pool parties.**

rouger," he said. "We used to have kids that would start fights ... we had police cars here like every Thursday, because they knew we had a lot of teens coming, but sometimes they didn't all get along."

"Things have changed a lot over the years," he added. "We've got a good group of teens."

On Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., Eastown Ministries offers Mid Point, a middle school program with Bible lessons, games and basketball. An hour later, it hosts Teen Night, a high school version. After Teen Night, the students can either sing in the Girls of Grace program or play basketball — if they memorized a Bible verse and recited it to six adults. Mid Point averages about 25 attendees; Teen Night, around 20.

On Tuesday from 4:30 to 6 p.m., about 30 children, ages 4-11, attend Fun Night, a program complete with singing, memory verses, games and snacks. Later in the evening, roughly a dozen adults participate in a Bible study.

"We want them to feel like they're safe here," Jim Carpenter said. "This is a place where they're accepted and loved ... and sometimes they don't necessarily feel that at home."

Eastown Ministries also has a team in the Hoop City Basketball League, which runs from November through February. It hosts other events as well, includ-

sider himself a "kid-person," he and his wife stepped up. They are supported by InFAITH, an American mission organization. About a dozen volunteers work with the Carpenters and various guest speakers present messages during the evening programs.

"We talk about making choices a lot," Carol Carpenter said. "The consequences of bad choices and the blessings of good choices."

Past speakers include Elias Lumpkins, a Grand Rapids Commissioner; Lori Cook, WOTV's Where You Live's host, "Maranda"; and Renee Bacon, GEMS' director of urban ministries.

The Carpenters have a Baptist background, but Eastown Ministries is non-denominational. Volunteers are primarily Christian Reformed, Reformed and Baptist.

"We don't feel a passion for working in our own basically white, middle-class church," Jim Carpenter said. "We're much more interested in working with the inner-city kids, with all their problems and broken homes."

"We're not picking them up and taking them up to white, middle-class America and saying 'here's how Jesus works,'" he explained. "We're in their neighborhood."

“ We're between the street and the church.

Jim Carpenter, "Nonprofit aids community" ”

## Coffee company utilizes Kickstarter

BY BRITTANY BEEZHOLD  
Staff Writer

A warm cup of coffee between your hands, the smell of roasting coffee beans and the sound of the espresso machine steaming milk form the atmosphere of Rowster New American Coffee, located at 632 Wealthy Street. Rowster is committed to the purity and quality of its coffee as well as producing green, fairly sourced products.

And last month, something new happened at Rowster. Through Kickstarter, an online funding platform, Rowster was able to launch a new idea called Regular Coffee Co. — a separate brand of locally roasted affordable coffee manufactured at Rowster.

Kurt Stauffer, the founder and President of Rowster Coffee, met Stephan Curtis, a coffee enthusiast and now current vice president of Rowster and Regular Coffee. Together, Stauffer and Curtis formed a new collaboration.

"This project has grown out of our love for great coffee (which has been our fuel for Rowster) and our frustration with the inability to easily share it with people around the country," said Curtis.

"We started questioning why places like Portland and Seattle are alone being considered 'hubs' of the specialty coffee industry." Curtis continued, "If an obscure company in Portland can roast 1 million pounds of coffee per month, then that challenges us to figure out what would stop Grand Rapids from becoming a hub for great coffee here in the Midwest."

Utilizing the roots of manu-

facturing in Michigan, Stauffer and Curtis structured their idea around the concepts of simplicity and quality. They desired to create a brand that people would connect with and share.

"We really wanted an interesting package and brand — one that could support the quality inside," said Curtis. "We wanted people to be proud to share this with their friends. We wanted something worth looking at, but also with the quality to back up the looks."

Justin Dewaard, a recent addition to the barista team at Rowster, was impressed with the concept of Regular Coffee.

"When they briefed me on what Regular was, I was like, oh, that's actually genius," said Dewaard.

"We've been getting the name Regular Coffee out there and having people sign up for more information via email," continued Dewaard. "It's like a magazine subscription but coffee."

A major dilemma for local roasters like Regular Coffee is the struggle of presence amid larger industrialized coffee shops such as Starbucks Coffee or Biggby Coffee. Regular Coffee distinguishes itself both locally in Grand Rapids as well as nationally as a new way to do coffee.

As a diversion from the mainstream coffee industry, Regular Coffee partnered with Kickstarter, making it possible to generate an online dialogue for support, awareness and recognition within a competitive market.

"Kickstarter is a way for us to generate some excitement and urgency. It gives us more incentive to talk to people in a given time frame to help us reach our goal,"

said Curtis.

Kickstarter is an online funding platform, a tool enabling thousands of people to make their ideas and dreams become reality. It is an element of technology that is transforming support and funding of the arts and innovation within communities.

Kickstarter launched on Aug. 28, 2009. Because of the independent nature of each project, Kickstarter is able to host hundreds of projects and give an online presence to fund new ideas across the nation. Using the website, Kickstarter mandates deadlines for efficient fundraising.

Over the course of three years, Kickstarter has encouraged support of music, food, art, technology, film and publishing across the nation.

At Rowster, the roasting and packaging of Regular Coffee unfolds rhythmically both during and after hours. Presented in a cylindrical tin with simple brown branding, the 1.5 pounds' worth of beans provides one month's supply of coffee.

The concept of Regular Coffee's branding and packaging emerged to emphasize the accessibility of the product.

"Regular Coffee makes what can be a very inaccessible, pretentious thing very accessible," said Dewaard. "We're trying to make what could be sometimes a snooty, non-customer friendly product into an easy simple package that's not frightening."

For Stauffer, Curtis and the barista staff at Rowster, Regular Coffee exemplifies community, technology, and passionate people merging together to make great things happen.

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# ELECTION: President Obama wins by larger margin in electoral votes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Obama's popular lead soon ticked up, though, with Wednesday's estimate holding him at just over 60,000,000 votes, or 50.4 percent of the votes, and 303 electoral votes. Mitt Romney won approximately 57,500,000 votes, 48.1 percent of the votes, and 206 electoral votes. (Numbers as of Wednesday night.)

Calvin College was not immune to the political buzz, with many students heading to the polls, hosting election parties, and watching the numbers roll in with varying degrees of interest.

However, politically active Calvin students are not necessarily representative of the nation: according to the Huffington Post, voters aged 18-30 made up only 19 percent of all voters in this election, a mere one point higher than in 2008. Of this 19 percent, 60 percent voted for Obama, down almost ten points from 2008.

Two themes common among many of these young voters, particularly those here at Calvin, are the flagging economy and political polarization in Congress and

culture. Both of these issues are ones that we as members of the next generation will have to grapple with as we come into our own.

Sophomore Maggie Ferntheil of

years is that we lower the national debt. It is outrageous to have that many zeroes behind a number.”

Indeed, the economy has been the main issue throughout the

of Massachusetts points out that four high-profile Congressional moderates lost their seats on Tuesday. “Discussions of the fiscal cliff, for example, can only

whoever got elected was going to have a very hard time pushing their agenda through both houses.”

However, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

*“With a divided Congress, whoever got elected was going to have a very hard time pushing their agenda through both houses.”*

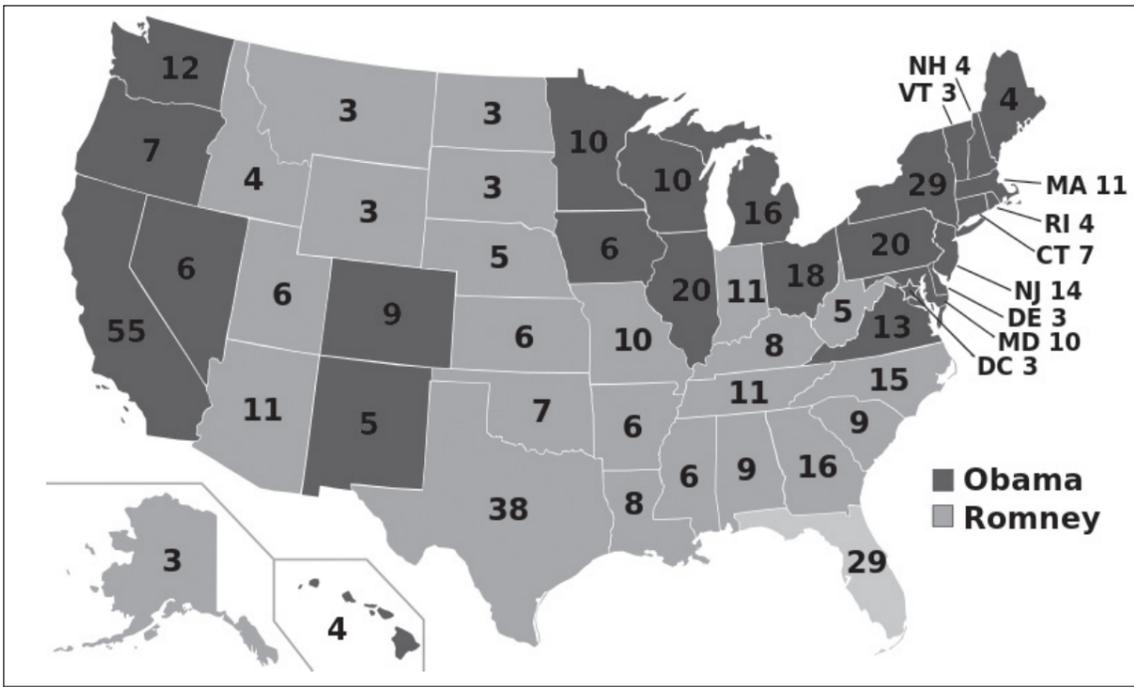
“Now that congressional Republicans can no longer say their goal is ‘to deny President Obama a second term,’ I am optimistic some compromises can be reached,” Wood says hopefully.

Now that the elections are over for now, what is left is for the Republican Party is to take a closer look at its platform. Struyk, like many young voters, realizes that Obama was able to more effectively appeal to Latino and female voters than Romney.

“The demographics of America are shifting,” he says, “and the Republican Party will need to adjust to meet those demographics if they want to win back the White House.”

Either way, Hawkins hopes the parties will move back towards moderation.

“This would allow for voters to not vote against extremist views,” she says, “but to vote for the ideals they support.”



WIKIMEDIA

California did not vote for Obama for just this reason: “I felt that there has not been enough [economic] growth in the past four years,” she says. “Lately it has felt like we are not making any progress.”

She adds that “it is my responsibility [as a member of society] to not spend more money than I make. The government should follow the same rules.”

Senior Julia Hawkins of Michigan agrees that the problem is real: “My primary concern for the next four

election, with Romney campaigning on a policy of reducing government spending and cutting taxes in order to stimulate the markets. Analysts agree that from 2008 to 2012, the GDP grew at a slower rate than from 1936 to 1940, when the nation was wracked by economic depression and a world war.

But political posturing isn't the way to solve the problem, Calvin students would seem to agree. Junior Benjamin Wood

been at a stalemate. It will be interesting to see whether that continues or whether both sides are willing to come to the table.”

Indeed, Tuesday's elections gave the Senate majority to the Democratic Party, while the House of Representatives remains in Republican hands. Struyk predicts that President Obama's hands are tied, as would Romney's have been had he been elected.

“With a divided Congress,

## Storm stirs climate debate

Hurricane Sandy raises future concerns

BY PAULINA HEULE  
Staff Writer

For most individuals this week, the main focus has been the constant hum of the Presidential election. Yet, for those in the areas most hard hit by Hurricane Sandy, the repercussions of the massive Oct. 29 storm are still developing into an issue that cannot be overlooked.

When the storm slammed into the East Coast, it immediately morphed into a frighteningly problematic system, killing at least 106 people in the United States. Power outages now stand at more than 1.3 million homes and businesses, down from a peak of 8.5 million.

*“We are vulnerable.”*

In New York, tens of thousands of people left homeless by the storm are looking for places to stay while their homes or apartment buildings are being repaired. Although federal officials said more than 45,000 families had been approved for housing assistance totaling more than \$203 million, most agree that this is not enough.

Without a doubt, the storm has had a massive toll on the East Coast. Yet, in part because of the proximity to Election Day, Hurricane Sandy has left an impact greater than the strewn rubble and flooded basements. The super storm that ravaged the East Coast only days before the election has demanded more attention for the environment, sparking a new discussion on the future of our planet.

The discussion on climate change has been meager on both politi-

cal parties for much of this Presidential campaign and although scientists cannot directly blame a specific storm on climate change, they do believe it can worsen change. Hurricane Sandy has significantly increased dialogue on climate change, with numerous political figures and celebrities raising concerns in the storm's aftermath.

“It's a longer conversation, but I think part of learning from this is the recognition that climate change is a reality,” Gov. Andrew Cuomo (R-N.Y.) said in the days following Sandy. “Extreme weather is a reality. It is a reality that we are vulnerable.”

This conversation becomes even more applicable when the storm-ravaged New Yorkers will soon face another terrifying nor'easter coming up the East Coast by Wednesday.

Although the storm is not anticipated to be as crippling as Sandy, forecasters anticipate renewed coastal flooding to parts of the city and the New Jersey shore, and still more power outages due to strong winds.

The new storm's potential for damage only reiterates the fact that the discussion on climate change and how the government will respond are critical to the public's response to Hurricane Sandy.

Although relief effort is a huge part of the process, education on environmental awareness and consequent action are also important pieces in the entire nation's recovery from Hurricane Sandy.

## Puerto Ricans vote for U.S. statehood

61 percent affirmative vote moves to U.S. Congress

BY JULIA GHO  
Staff Writer

Puerto Rico is not a U.S. state — it is a Commonwealth. Although the U.S. Congress has local responsibility over Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico has autonomy, and the governor-elect of Puerto Rico holds the highest public office on the island. Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens and have all the benefits of citizenship except voting for the U.S. President in the general elections.

Despite this disparity, Puerto Rico has continued to remain a U.S. territory. The general consensus of Puerto Ricans is to stay as a U.S. territory; only a small minority wants independence and complete autonomy from the United States. The latter believes that breaking away from the United States will be worth the challenges of a new nation that is not supported by federal aid. A less popular group favors becoming a U.S. state. As a state, Puerto Rico would receive increased funding from Washington and the right to vote in Presidential elections.

In 1967, 1993 and 1998, Puerto Rico turned down the chance to become a state. In 1967, a little over 60 percent voted in favor of remaining a U.S. commonwealth. In 1993, the percentage went down to 48.6. Then in 1998, 50.3 percent of the Puerto Ricans rejected all three options of statehood, independence and wealth, opting for “none of the above.”

However, after this year's elec-

tion, it is possible that Puerto Rico will become a state.

This November's ballot for will ask Puerto Ricans two questions that are very different from those of previous ballots. First, the residents will be asked if they would like to move away from Puerto Rico's status as a US territory. The second question asks



WIKIMEDIA

The Puerto Rican Congress has limited sovereignty.

what plan should be pushed forward: remain a territory, become independent, or become the 51st state. If there is a majority vote for statehood, the procedure for Puerto Rico to become the 51st state will begin.

“We are already intertwined into the national fabric. And what needs to happen now is for us to fully partake,” said Governor Luis Fortuño.

If Puerto Rico were to become the 51st state, the balance of power in the Congress would shift. Furthermore, Puerto Rico has three major political parties that do not directly correlate to the

Democratic and Republican parties. The three major political parties are divided along the lines of supporting statehood, independence or territorial status.

There is still a lot of confusion regarding the three choices for Puerto Rico. In a May 2012 poll, about 51 percent wanted to remain a territory, 45 percent did not fully understand the ballot options and only 36 percent supported statehood.

However, the polling data on this Sunday's referendum in Puerto Rico on territorial constitutional changes did not match up with how the people voted. Voters rejected constitutional amendments that limited bail rights and minimized the island's legislature. At this time, the vote is seen as a win for the party that supports independence for Puerto Rico.

After 94 percent of the votes were counted on Wednesday morning, 54 percent of Puerto Ricans opted for a change from the status quo, and a further 61 percent supported U.S. statehood. This decision is non-binding, and the U.S. Congress will take up the measure for final consideration.

# FUN. and Calvin's

## opportunity to listen

Despite controversy, Calvin brings band that sparks LGBTQ dialogue

BY KYLE LUCK  
Guest Writer

Pop culture is a difficult topic here at Calvin. Lots of us believe that part of our duty as citizens of God's kingdom is to do the difficult work of discernment by engaging all of culture. And yet, many of us are equally convinced that discernment ends nearly where pop culture begins — that is, that “worldly art” is inherently at odds with the Christian faith. Toss in a few angry parents, idealistic students and thought-provoking professors for good measure, and we've got ourselves a real mess to work out. It's no secret that there have been a number of issues regarding pop culture at Calvin over the past few years.

In many ways, this seems contrary to Calvin's mission of shaping thoughtful Christian minds by inviting students to disengage with parts of culture that seem unfit to a few more influential members of the community. After such events, students are often left wondering if they have responsible freedom here or not. After all, it's easy to talk about fostering critical thought within the student body, but it's another thing entirely to actually let us follow through on our conclusions.

That said, Calvin is an institution affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church (CRC), and we all knew that coming in. Despite the fact that I am not reformed, I am deeply grateful for this institution's continuous attempt to honor its historical and theological commitments. I do not agree with everything that happens at Calvin, but then again, I wouldn't agree with everything that happens anywhere. Moreover, there are many members of this community that take seriously our commitments to the CRC and desire to protect it from those cultural forces that might cause the denomination to be distorted or, perhaps worse, divided.

As many of you already know, indie-pop sensation Fun. will be playing at Calvin next Wednesday as part of a tour to raise awareness about LGBTQ issues and equality. The band has made several changes to their stop in an attempt to accommodate Calvin's commitment to the CRC's position on homosexuality. Many students view these accommodations as unnecessary, or even unjust. Similarly, a significant portion of this community is equally offended that Calvin would even consider hosting a band with such an “un-biblical” agenda. So where do we go from here?

As has been noted, Calvin is an institution that tends to transcend generalizations (which is not something most institutions our size can truthfully say). To be frank, our varied ideological climate leads to mountains of frustration. But what can we do? That's reality. When we break away from this community, things will not get easier — at least inasmuch as we are committed to the betterment of society. Sure, some of us will move to homogenous suburbs where everyone believes the same, and that'll be our “witness.” But what good will that witness actually be? As one of the most LGBTQ unfriendly schools in the U.S., we have a great opportunity awaiting us — an

opportunity to think critically about what we believe, to ask questions, and to listen intently to those who do not share the convictions of the CRC.

Regardless of your opinions regarding LGBTQ issues, we have an obligation as a Reformed institution to listen, to engage and to discern what Fun. might have to say in a hospitable and thoughtful way. It won't be easy, but someone has got to do it. Truthfully, I don't think there is a better place for it to happen than here, at Calvin College.



**FUN. will be playing at the Van Noord Arena with  
Minature Tigers on November 14 at 8 p.m.**

## ‘Drood’ runs second weekend, offers good voices and playful atmosphere

BY WILL MONTEI & DAVID GROEN  
Staff & Guest Writer

I have a confession to make: somewhere towards the end of “Edwin Drood,” I voted for a brother and sister to fall in love — I didn’t want to, but the mere option of it was so odd that I was left with no choice.

“The Mystery of Edwin Drood” is based on a mystery novel by Charles Dickens that, sadly, wasn’t completed before his untimely death. As a result, no one knows how the story was actually meant to end — making it perfect fodder for playwright Rupert Holmes, who turned the unfinished book into a musical comedy.

When I heard that “Drood” was a musical, my heart dropped. Well, I thought, there goes any chance of this play being good. At best, it will be okay. But with the opening verses of “There You Are,” the first song of the evening, I stopped worrying. All

the cast members had excellent voices.

Holmes’ play operates on a novel idea: let the audience decide how it ends. Through

Alford, narrates and guides the audience through each situation.

At first, the sound of being “guided” through a play sounds contrived. With the influx of

he’s telling us to “boo” at a villain or pointing out obvious clues, his interjections brought belly laughs to each scene.

But Alford was just one of many great performers; from Meredith Beukelman’s rendition of Princess Puffer to Dan VandeBunte’s John Jasper, each performance was done so well that the actors themselves were unrecognizable. Emily Diener even played a man. Well, actually, she played a woman playing a man.

“The Mystery of Edwin Drood” is a play-within-a-play, you see, which is how it gets away with its extensive audience interaction. One play is “The Mystery of Edwin Drood,” while the other is the performance of said play by Theatre Royale, a fictional theatre company. So in real life, each actor is playing another actor playing a character from

“Edwin Drood.” When the audience is asked to vote on the plot, the mystery may be put on pause, but Theatre Royale is still quite active.

This contrivance allows for more than just audience participation. During one scene, we find out that an actor from Theatre Royale was incapacitated and failed to show up for his performance, so none other than the Chairman steps into to take his place as Mr. William Cartwright. Weird occurrences like that happen all the time throughout the play.

With so many plot variations left up to the audience, every night presents a different show. And if left up to me, it would have been really different.

The witty writing and playful performances are sure to win over even the most skeptical attendees. “Drood” might just be the most fun you have during a theatre performance.

Exercise your right as a voting audience member. Go see “The Mystery of Edwin Drood.”



PHOTO BY MYRNA ANDERSON

The musical continues Nov. 8-10 with performances beginning at 7:30.

measures of audience applause and ticket stubs, the audience was allowed to decide many key elements of the plot — from trivial love interests to who killed Edwin Drood. All the while, the Chairman, played by Brian

meta-narratives in film and books, I’ve almost had enough of “breaking the fourth wall.” But thanks to Alford’s performance, the Chairman’s constant meddling throughout the play makes it even more effective. Whether

## Disney to make a 7th ‘Star Wars’ movie

BY SIERRA SAVELA  
Staff Writer

It was announced last week that Disney would be buying Lucasfilms for \$4.5 billion. Along with the purchase of the special effects company, the deal also gave Disney the rights to the very popular Star Wars franchise. Disney announced that they would continue the Star Wars saga with Episode VII, set to be released in 2015.

As news spread, the entire Internet basically exploded. Memes, blogs, opinions, rants, tweets and statuses were immediately posted as more and more people joined the conversation that Tuesday night. The news wasn’t taken lightly because this is a serious story. George Lucas, the creator of Star Wars, had always said he was done with the classic sci-fi films so fans never really expected to see another movie. But now all of a sudden, there is a new Star Wars in early production. To the fans, it all seems to be happening too quickly.

According to CNN, George Lucas will remain a significant shareholder in the company and will play the role as the creative consultant on Star Wars VII. In a written statement Lucas explained, “It’s now time for me to pass Star Wars on to a new generation of filmmakers. I’ve always believed that Star Wars could live beyond me and I thought it was important to set up the transition during my lifetime.” Along with Star Wars VII, fans can expect an eighth and a ninth episode.

According to CNN, Disney would ideally like to make even

more movies after the new trilogy, possibly releasing a new addition every two or three years. There is also talk of a possible Star Wars television series.

But with the purchase of Lucasfilms, Disney is really putting all their focus on Star Wars VII right now. The most interesting factor to think about is the possible story line for the new trilogy. For those who don’t know, there are hundreds of books that succeed the movies. There is a vast array of story lines, characters and wars.

According to a Tampa Bay article, the new trilogy will follow Luke, Han and Leia, the main characters of the original trilogy. The wonder is at what point in time will Star Wars VII begin? This is something a lot of fans are eager to learn. During the deal, one analyst said to Bob Iger, Disney’s chief executive, “I can say, Bob, that you’re risking the wrath of the entire Internet. But, I dunno, I’m excited.”

Yes, with all the exciting news, it’s important to look at how the fans are reacting. After all, Star Wars isn’t just another movie. The Star Wars fandom is huge, with a spectrum of all ages, from the adults who saw A New Hope in theaters back in 1977 all the way to the kids who watch The Clone Wars on Cartoon Network. Star Wars has some dedicated fans and they didn’t all react quite the same way. Some are really excited to see the new additions while others dread what will become of the precious saga. Calvin students have their own opinions on the matter too. Student, Ethan Hougen said, “I feel like they should have just left it alone ... I don’t want to be close minded ...

but I’m a little skeptical on how it will turn out.”

This seems to be a popular opinion. Another Student Caitlin Smits explained, “It seems to rub me the wrong way like it just doesn’t feel right to have Disney working on Star Wars ... but who knows, we might be surprised.”

What is it about Disney that seems to frighten so many fans?

Freshman Andy Peterson gives his explanation, “I think it’s going to ruin, well, further ruin the rest of the series. Because I feel like [Disney is] just out there to get the money, not to make a good story. Unlike how they made the first films ... Disney is all about the money.”

So some fans are disappointed that Star Wars has fallen into the hands of “Big Hollywood.” But is that enough of a reason to not trust Disney with the franchise? I mean Disney has made some really good movies in the past. In fact most recently, Disney bought Marvel and the Avengers was definitely not a disappointment.

Student Leira Lew expresses her concerns, “I hope Disney doesn’t add their magic touch of overextending a good series for the sake of it. Pirates of the Caribbean just kept getting worse.” True, Disney does have a pretty good track record of failing sequels. But not all fans are worried. A lot of them argue that Star Wars cannot be further ruined after the most recent trilogy, which a lot of fans were disappointed with. Others feel safe in Disney’s hands, remembering that Disney has made great movies before and they can do it again. Most people are just excited to be able to continue the journey and experience the Star Wars galaxy once again.

## Sun Araw does reggae right

BY JON HIELKEMA  
Staff Writer

California-based musician Sun Araw produces experimental psychedelic music that owes an obvious debt to Jamaican dub producers.

The Congos is a veteran group of reggae musicians whose output includes one of the greatest roots reggae albums of all time, “The Heart of the Congos.” That album turns 25 years old this year, a possible inspiration for this collaborative project, entitled “Icon Give Thank.” Released through RVNG INTL., this record is a prime example of the merits of international and cross-genre cooperation between musicians.

The music contained here is overtly strange but I hesitate to label it experimental. It has many of the production trappings of traditional dub reggae, but avoids sounding like a retreat. “Icon Give Thank” is an undertaking of an almost mythical scope, or it certainly sounds that way. Its production style evokes reverence and deep history but it is enthralling even for a relative newcomer to reggae.

The album’s tone and lyrical focus are both immediately established in a prelude track entitled “New Binghi.” The first words you hear are “Clap your hands, all ye people! Shout unto Jah [God] with a voice of triumph!” What this is, then, is an album of ecstatic praise. Most of the lyrics are arranged as repeating phrases conveying thanks to God for blessings and protection. Despite the measured pace of the seven tracks, there is a palpable sense of grace in the delivery and presentation. The Congos’ claim to fame was, besides their aptitude for strong songwriting and apt choice of producers, the angelic voices possessed by falsetto Cedric Myton and tenor Ashanti Johnson.

Sun Araw’s production

bathes the songs in a dense haze of drones, extended bass booms, and sunny but sweaty psychedelia. In sharp contrast to the clarity and straightforwardness of the vocals, which are preserved well in the mix despite the tumult, other instruments are hazy and often indistinct.

Building a trance-like draw over their long running time, the songs absorb you into their vastness when they succeed. When they fail, as in the case of the draggy, druggy “Jungle,” the results are still, to this pair of ears, wonderful in a way. That song spends too much time mired, spinning its wheels. That said, none of the songs are bad, and they are so packed with aural information that most of them only grow in value over repeated listenings. Singing along with the album’s incantations/choruses/enhanced my enjoyment greatly as well.

If “Jungle” is the relative failure of the lot, then “Sunshine” is the crowning jewel. The shortest of the songs not counting the introduction, this song is built around a simple lyric: “Sunshine/Daytime/Sunshine is holy light.” Waves of droning guitars and a maxed-out low end are effective on both the mind and body. Being more of a night owl myself, I had yet to here a satisfactory ode to our neighbor star. “Wake up! Wake up!” the voice urges, and I admit that every time I listen to the song I am helpless but to obey. Behind the voices there is a world of lively detail, enough for several songs of its relatively slender five minute running time.

On “Icon Give Thank,” simplicity and complexity, fog and sunshine, clear voices and long drones coexist in a healthy tension. There is nothing comfortable about this record. It challenges patience at times, credulity at others. Sun Araw proves himself a capable producer and The Congos shine as always.

Little in the world sounds like this album, and nothing that does quite measures up. Diving into this Jamaican/American curiosity would be well worth a little risk.



FILE PHOTO



FILE PHOTO

“It’s just good to know that we’re going dancing. We don’t really care about who we’re with at this point.

Coach Ryan Souders, “Soccer wins MIAA title,” pg. 10”

# Volleyball takes down Hope in fives sets to win MIAA title

BY SYDNEY CHIPMAN  
Staff Writer

In an exciting weekend for Calvin athletics, the women’s volleyball team added to the energy on campus, earning the MIAA Tournament Championship on their very own court.

“It was incredibly exciting,” says freshman Maggie Kamp. “The excitement never stopped. It was like an electric buzz everywhere I went on campus all weekend, up until the very end.”

In the first game of the tournament on Friday night, the Knights took on the Trine Thunder at Calvin’s Van Noord Arena.

“It was definitely an advantage, being able to play on our home court,” says sophomore Emily Crowe. “Having the big home crowd there cheering for us definitely got us pumped!”

The Knights took down the Thunder in the first set of the match 25-16. Earning the winning kill was senior Lizzie Kamp with an assist from junior Megan Rietema. The team earned 19 kills overall in the first set of the match.

Calvin’s women kept their hot streak going into the second set, earning the 25-17 win over Trine on a service error. The Knights finished the second set of the night with 11 team kills.

Trine held on the last game, keeping it close the whole set and causing it to go to extra points. The Knights, however, came out victorious with a 27-25 win

over the Thunder. Earning the winning point for the Knights was a dual block by senior Julia Hilbrands and sophomore Emily Crowe.

“Getting that win felt great,” says Crowe. “It was well earned. Trine pushed us to the very end, but we held on. It was huge for us.”

Sisters Maggie and Lizzie Kamp led the team with kills for the night, each earning 15. Hilbrands put down nine and Rietema chipped in five while also earning 35 assists. Leading the team in digs were senior Kelly Gordon with 12, junior Kristen Zietse with 10, and Rietema with nine.

The win over Trine sent the Knights to the tournament finals the next day where they faced rival team Hope College.

“Getting to play our rival is always exciting,” says Maggie Kamp. “Playing them at home for the MIAA Tournament finals

was crazy!”

Both teams made the match even more exciting for the fans by

The Flying Dutch answered back, however, and took the next set 25-22, earning 15 team kills while the Knights had 10.

Keeping the next set close, the Knights were unable to scrape out the win for this set and Hope took it with a close score of 26-24. Hope earned 16 team kills for the set while Calvin earned 11.

The Knights battled back and took the next set 25-23, earning the winning point on a kill by Maggie Kamp with an assist from Rietema.

Both teams battled all the way to the end. The Knights, however, took the Tournament Champion title, earning the last win over the Flying Dutchmen 15-11, taking the win on an attack error by Hope player Greer Bratschie.

Maggie Kamp led the Knights in kills, earning 19 for the night. Following close behind were Lizzie Kamp with 18 and Rietema

with seven. Seniors Rebecca Ratkov and Crowe both chipped in six each. Rietema led the team with 50 assists for the night. Leading the Knights with digs were Gordon with 18, Pluymert with 16, Lizzie Kamp with 14, Zietse with 13 and Rietema with 12.

After the match, five Knights earned All-MIAA honors. Emily Crowe and Maggie Kamp were named to the second team while Julia Hilbrands, Megan Rietema, and Lizzie Kamp each earned places on the first team. Maggie Kamp was also named MIAA Freshman of the Year while her older sister Lizzie Kamp was named MIAA Most Valuable Player.

“I’m so honored to be named Freshman of the Year and be named second team in the MIAA,” says Maggie Kamp. “It’s exciting for me as a freshman on varsity to earn these awards my first year!”

Winning the MIAA Tournament earned Calvin the MIAA automatic bid to the NCAA III volleyball tournament.

With their record so high, the Knights were able to host the NCAA regionals this weekend. The Knights hosted Heidelberg last night in the first round of the NCAA playoffs. The winner of that game plays the winner of the Mount Union/Medaille game which also happened yesterday. The winner of tonight’s games will play each other in the NCAA regional final.



PHOTO BY JESS KOSTER

The volleyball team advances to the NCAA tournament. They are hosts to the regional tournament this weekend.

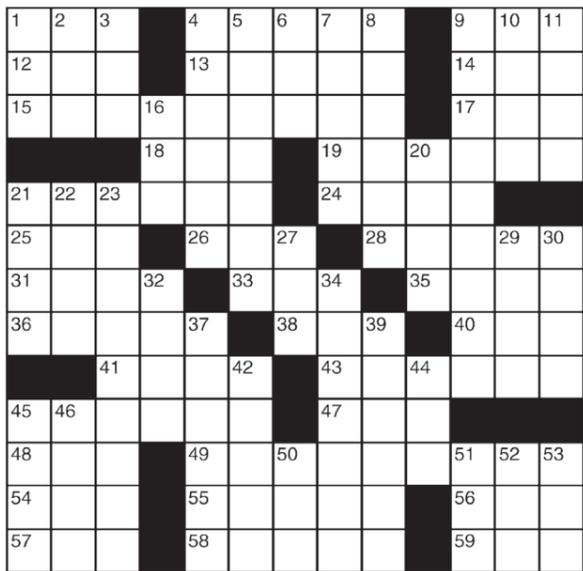
taking it to all five games.

With a strong start right away for Calvin, the Knights took the first set over the Flying Dutch 25-18. Earning the winning point was a kill by Rietema with an assist from senior Jen Pluymert. The Knights earned 15 kills overall for the set.

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 That guy
- 4 Actor Malcolm-Warner
- 9 Throng
- 12 Historic time
- 13 Give a speech
- 14 Lawyers' org.
- 15 Mexican street musicians
- 17 Deteriorate
- 18 "CSI" evidence
- 19 Easter bouquet
- 21 Insist on
- 24 Racetrack tipster
- 25 Greek H
- 26 Pick a target
- 28 Water nymph
- 31 The Red Planet
- 33 Curved line
- 35 Knob on a shield
- 36 Of a pelvic bone
- 38 Weep loudly
- 40 Right angle
- 41 Guitarist
- 43 Lofgren
- 43 Tidbit
- 45 Slanted typeface
- 47 - choy
- 48 Wicked
- 49 Showy yellow flowers



- 54 Anger
- 55 Buckwheat pancakes
- 56 "Of course"
- 57 "Mayday!"
- 58 Marsh plant
- 59 Ram's mate
- 8 Injury
- 9 Eastern Canadian provinces
- 10 Reed instrument
- 11 Dugout supply
- 16 Greek mountain
- 20 Waikiki wingding
- 21 Actress Moore
- 22 And others (Lat.)
- 23 Tenderizing sauces
- 27 "-"
- 29 Competent
- 30 Barbie or Raggedy Ann
- 32 Take to the seas
- 34 Barbershop treatment
- 37 Goes up
- 39 Dance to rock music
- 42 Weighing device
- 44 Old theater letters
- 45 Wading bird
- 46 Poi base
- 50 Disencumber
- 51 Caustic solution
- 52 Morning moisture
- 53 Away from NNW

**DOWN**

- 1 Height of fashion?
- 2 Gershwin brother
- 3 Scratch
- 4 "AbFab" actress Lumley
- 5 Region of simple, quiet pleasure
- 6 -jongg
- 7 Cockeyed

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		7				2	5			
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			3	8					6	

SUDOKU

## CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

10/28/2012

Campus safety employees observed several people climb onto the roof of the Commons. When officers attempted to make contact with the group, some jumped from the roof and fled. Others initially refused to come down off the roof. When students who remained on the roof did come down, it was determined that one of them had previously consumed alcohol. Information on the students involved in this incident were referred to judicial affairs for violations of the student conduct code.

11/3/2012

Campus safety officers were called to Schultze-Eldersveld residence hall to investigate damage to a window in the lobby. Witnesses said an unknown person dressed in a gorilla suit had banged on the window to scare people who were in the lobby. When the student hit the window, it broke. The unknown student fled the area. None of the witnesses claimed to know who the person in the gorilla suit was. The student later contacted physical plant and campus safety to notify them about the broken window.

Please join Operation Christmas Child and student senate in bringing Christmas to kids in need around the world. OCC sends thousands of shoeboxes filled with fun toys to children in need, and next week senate will be partnering with them. Boxes and small gifts (socks, toiletries, toys etc.) are available in the SDO from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. everyday for YOU to fill! You may either bring your own box/fillers, or donate \$3 and use the boxes and gifts we provide. We hope you consider this opportunity to partner with an incredible ministry!

## Women's basketball strong in new season

BY MITCH BLANKESPOOR  
Staff Writer

The Calvin College women's basketball team's season is just over two weeks away, and the 2012-13 team is already hitting the gym.

"Tryouts finished about a week ago," head coach John Ross said. "We are all anxious to get the season started."

Coming off of a 28-2 campaign that led Calvin all the way to the national quarterfinals, the Knights were recently ranked preseason number one in the country by the Women's Division III Basketball Newsletter.

The publication named Calvin senior Carissa Verkaik the preseason women's D-III national player of the year. A season ago, Verkaik was runner-up for women's D-III national player of the year.

Verkaik is humbled by the accolades, but is quick to mention they mean nothing in regard to the Knights' season.

"The preseason accolades are great, but we haven't proved anything yet," Verkaik said. "The seniors know this is our last shot, and we want to leave it all out on the court."

The six seniors are Verkaik, Ally Wolffis, Julia Hilbrands, Kelsey Irwin, Logan Marsh and Heather DeKleine.

This senior class has taken Calvin to three straight appearances in the NCAA D-III Women's Basketball Tournament. Ross expects the seniors to lead the team to a fourth.

"We feel strong about

without Hilbrands for the first week of the season.

Wolffis averaged 6.8 points and 3.6 rebounds per game in a starting role in the post a season ago. She averaged 16.1 minutes per game and shot 49 percent from the field for the season.

Irwin connected on a team high 53 three pointers a season ago. Irwin, who played primarily at shooting guard, was also very efficient, shooting over 41 percent from behind the three-point arc. She will see time in the rotation this upcoming season.

Marsh and DeKleine saw the floor sparingly a season ago. The two back court seniors both fight for time in the Knight's rotation.

The junior class, although small in number, will have a big impact on the success of Calvin's season. Kirstin Tripp averaged 15 minutes and 2.6 points per game as the backup point guard last season. She will likely start in the backcourt for the Knights. Danielle Kaputska transferred to Calvin from Aquinas last season. She saw limited court time as a guard a season ago, and will push for a spot in Calvin's rotation this season.

Calvin has to replace two starters, Jill Thomas and Courtney Kurncz, from last season. Ross expects Tripp to step into her new position with confidence.

"We hope Kirstin Tripp can become a leader in a starting role this season," Ross said. "She will need to fill some of the void Jill Thomas left. As for Danielle [Kaputska], she had a great offseason. She is more fit, and shooting the three extremely well."

"We are going to start Kayla [Englehard] at the two guard to give her more opportunities to score," said Ross. "Breanna [Verkaik] is going to move to the starting small forward position. Hannah [Acre] and Maria [DeKuijper] are both stronger and more fit this year. Abby is doing a pretty good job in practice for us right now. She will give us good depth in the post."

Two freshmen, Kally Verkaik and Abby Springer could make an impact on the varsity this season.

"Both are very athletic and very hard workers," said Ross. "Kally [Verkaik] works her tail off every day in practice. Abby [Springer] can handle the ball and shoot the three well. It will be exciting to see them progress over the course of the season."

The non-conference schedule for the Knights is daunting. Calvin starts off with two opponents it faced in last season's NCAA Tournament, St. Thomas (MN) and Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Both are ranked in the top five nationally to start the season. Calvin defeated Stevens-Point 76-71 in the second round and fell to St. Thomas 83-72 in overtime in the national quarterfinals.

The Knights will also face Manchester College, a team Calvin beat by just five points a season ago, as well as Centre College (IA) and Thomas More (KY).

Carissa Verkaik acknowledges that the non-conference schedule will be tough, but is excited about the opportunity to play tough teams early in the season.

"We have a very tough non-conference schedule this season," Verkaik said. "In years past,

we have not been tested as much early in the season. This season, we have a chance to play in an NCAA Tournament atmosphere which will help us prepare for the conference season and beyond."

The conference schedule for the Knights starts off Nov. 28 against Albion, a team that finished third in the MIAA a season ago.

Calvin's two matchups with rival Hope are Jan. 12 and Feb. 16. Calvin will host Hope in the first meeting at Calvin's Van Noord Arena, a place where the Knights defeated the Flying Dutch twice last season. The Knights will then travel to the DeVos Fieldhouse in February.

According to Ross, there will not be any easy victories in the MIAA.

"All the coaches do a phenomenal job recruiting and coaching in-game," Ross said. "It is scary to play any game on the road. We have to be ready to play our best each game each and every night."

The expectations are high for the 2012-13 version of Calvin women's basketball, but Ross is quick to point out the expectations are not the only thing on his team's mind.

"We hope to continue to grow in our faith and continue to do well in the classroom. This group continues to strive for excellence in every facet of their lives. It will be a fun season, but we have a lot of challenges ahead of us."

## Soccer wins MIAA title

BY JESS KOSTER  
Sports Editor

The men's soccer team hosted Kalamazoo last Thursday in the semi-final round of the MIAA tournament. The Knights took the Hornets 1-0 in double overtime.

Said freshman Taylor Prais: "We had good previous results against Kalamazoo, but give them credit for fighting that hard. It was a tough game and we didn't play our best, but we managed to pull it out right at the end. All we had to do was get out of there with a victory, and we were able to accomplish that."

Calvin maintained possession for most of the game and had 28 shots to Kalamazoo's five. Despite the shot difference, the ball did not connect with the back of the net for either team in regulation. The game was sent to overtime and through the first overtime

Calvin's first goal came by way of a header by Broekhuizen off a free kick from senior Nick Holtrop. This goal was Broekhuizen's 13th of the year. The Knights went into halftime up 1-0.

"It was a tough fought battle, back and forth through the first half," said Broekhuizen. "We were fortunate to get one. Nick [Holtrop] played the perfect ball to me in that first goal."

In the second half, much of the game was played in the midfield. Prais scored the next goal in minute 73 off a cross from junior Zach Willis. Four minutes later, Vegter connect on a pass from Broekhuizen to bring the Knights up 3-0; the final score. Rushlau had three key saves in the game.

"In the second half, we just tried to possess a little more than the first half," explained Broekhuizen. "[We] tried to hit the channels. I thought we did a good job controlling it and then our defense stepped up huge. Rushlau made a couple key saves



PHOTO BY JESS KOSTER

Travis Vegter dribbles through three Comets from Olivet in MIAA Championship game.

period, the game remained scoreless. With a minute and a half left in double overtime, sophomore Travis Vegter connected with a cross by Prais to send a header into the goal.

"I have to give a big thanks to Taylor Prais for laying it right up for me!" said Vegter, crediting Prais for the goal.

The Knights' senior keeper Jared Rushlau got the win and had two saves on the game.

Senior Joe Broekhuizen reflected, "It was a tough game. We had possession most of the game and generated some good chances but unfortunately couldn't put any away. Our defense and Rushlau played extremely well and held Kalamazoo scoreless until we could finally put one in. When a team plays 10 behind the ball like that its tough to be patient and find the gaps. We never got too discouraged and eventually it paid off."

This win moved them into the MIAA finals on Saturday against Olivet, who defeated Hope in their semi-final game. Calvin defeated Olivet 3-0 in front of a home crowd.

down the end and they shut [Olivet] out. That's all we can ask of them. So overall a good game for us."

"I thought it was a great win," commented Coach Ryan Souders. "It's obviously exciting to get a conference tournament championship. I thought our seniors did a great job; they've led us all year and it's exciting to get back in the NCAA tournament."

With this win, the Knights automatically qualify for the NCAA tournament. Last year they were national runner-up in Division III.

"We have no idea [who our match-up will be in the NCAA tournament]," said Souders. "We're excited find out Monday, it's just good to know that we're going dancing. We don't really care about who we're with at this point."

Holtrop, Broekhuizen, Vegter and senior Dan Nederhood were named All-MIAA First Team. Willis and sophomore Sean Broekhuizen were named All-MIAA second team. Holtrop was also named MIAA's Most Valuable Player.

The Knights travel to Dominican University in Ill. to face off against DePauw today.



CALVIN.EDU

The women's basketball team were MIAA champions last season and lost in the NCAA quarter final round.

this senior class," said Ross. "We expect great years from Wolffis and Hilbrands. Heather DeKleine is coming back from an ACL injury suffered last season. She and Kelsey Irwin are both shooting the ball really well from distance. Logan Marsh has stepped up her intensity on defense."

A season ago, Verkaik started at center in all 30 games a season ago, and averaged 19.2 points, 8.8 rebounds and 4.3 blocked shots per game. She was named MIAA Most Valuable Player for the third consecutive year and earned a spot on the NCAA All-American First Team.

Hilbrands finished second on the 2011-12 team averaging 8.7 points and 6.2 rebounds per game. For her efforts, Hilbrands earned a spot on the All-MIAA First Team for the first time in her career. Hilbrands is also a standout on the front row of Calvin's volleyball team. If the volleyball team's postseason run continues into the second and third week of November, the Knights basketball team may

Four sophomores made the varsity squad for 2012-13. Kayla Englehard started for Calvin at the point guard position in every game last season. She averaged 6.5 points and 2.0 assists per game. Englehard will likely start in the backcourt for Calvin.

Breanna Verkaik played in all 30 games a season ago averaging 2.6 points and 2.4 rebounds per game. She will likely start at small forward.

Maria DeKuijper saw limited court time last season. A 2,000-point scorer during her career in high school, she will likely come off the bench and give rest to Carissa Verkaik, Wolffis and Hilbrands in the post.

Hannah Acre played on the junior varsity last season. She will fight for playing time this season.

Abby VanderWoude is in her first season in wearing the maroon and gold. A transfer from Trinity Christian College, VanderWoude led the Trolls in scoring six different games during the 2011-12 campaign.

Ross expects a strong performance from the sophomore class this season.



### Save the Date

## November 15, 2012

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Donation suggested. Crown Plaza on 28th Street.  
RSVP by Friday, November 9 to Cheryl Wyma  
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## Daniel Heyns

Director of the Michigan  
Department of Corrections

For more information visit [cjcmistry.org](http://cjcmistry.org)



*Benefit Sale* Nov. 29 from 5:00-7:00pm

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Off Plymouth at Georgetown Condos, 2436 Village Dr. SE, Grand Rapids.

“ Scientists are being cautious about linking Sandy too closely to human-created climate change.

Jonathan Hielkema, “Hurricane Sandy” ”

# Sandy climate change contribution claim contested

BY JONATHAN HIELKEMA  
Staff Writer

Hurricane Sandy has caused an estimated \$50 billion in damages throughout the East Coast, stopped electrical service to millions of people, killed over 100 people and provoked a new engagement with the topic of climate change in the news media.

The first significant outcome of the debate was New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg's endorsement of President Barack Obama in an editorial. In that article, the mayor noted that he sees climate change as “an urgent problem that threatens our planet,” and says that he wants a president who will “place scientific evidence and risk management above electoral politics.” This was seen as a significant boon for the President as Bloomberg was previously unwilling to endorse either candi-

date. The implication of his statements is that Hurricane Sandy and events like it can be caused by or at least amplified by global climate change.

Scientists are being cautious about linking Sandy too closely to human-created climate change.

(NOAA) contributed this statement: “In [Sandy's] case, the immediate cause is most likely little more than a coincidental alignment of a tropical storm with an extratropical storm. As to underlying causes, neither the frequency of tropical nor extra-

nor have there been indications of a change in their statistical behavior over this region in recent decades.”

A contesting claim was put forward by an article for Politico, simply entitled “Did climate change contribute to Sandy? Yes.”

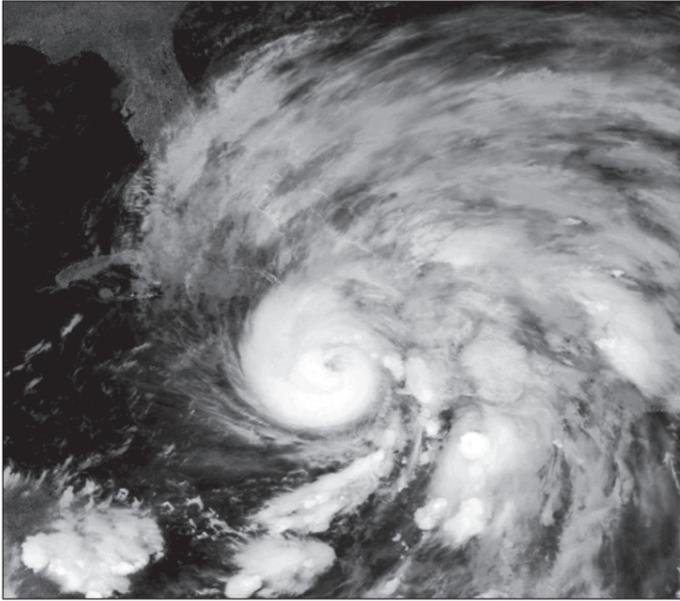
mends that world leaders prepare their citizens and enact policies that will help contain damage from what they predict will be increasingly strong weather events (Scientific American). Some are going so far as to call for the creation of a National Climate

Service to create and enforce laws that will govern how communities prepare for powerful storms and to decrease human contribution to climate change in the form of CO<sub>2</sub> and other so-called “greenhouse gases.”

Others have cited the other climate-related events that have wracked the United States with record-breaking heat and droughts. Extreme dry conditions affected more than 37 percent of the contiguous United States (NOAA) and caused over half of the counties in the nation to be declared disaster areas by

the United States Department of Agriculture. Activist Bill McKibben links the two events and wrote, “This has been, this entire year, should be a serious wake-up call and the public's beginning to get it” (Politico).

So far, most of the energy has been spent on immediate recovery. In the coming months and years, however, the debate over the scope and severity of the effects of global climate change will continue.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Sandy gathered intensity passing over the Caribbean.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Widespread effects included heavy snow in West Virginia.

Martin Hoerling, a meteorologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

tropical cyclones over the North Atlantic are projected to appreciably change due to climate change,

They agree that global warming is not a root cause for these kinds of storms happening, instead arguing that a warmer climate fuels more powerful and frequent storms. “We know that a warming climate puts more energy into storms, including hurricanes, loading them with more rainfall and stronger winds pushing more of a storm surge.”

This position is echoed by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which recom-



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ICG.0712034.AD

Regular readers of this section may already be aware that the International Space Station can be viewed with the naked eye when it passes overhead. A unique sight in the night sky, the ISS appears like an unusually swift star streaking across the dusky

heavens. It has power to stir the hearts

of beasts and men. Perhaps it will inspire you to create a

great work of literary beauty and technical genius

- and then submit it to the Sci-Tech section! Don't want to miss an ISS sighting? You can now sign up

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## FROM THE EDITOR

As we reported last week, Calvin asked fun. not to bring along the “village” of booths that would come along with the Campus Consciousness Tour to promote marriage equality. I am not here to make a judgment about whether that was the right decision or not. However, I do wish to raise some questions about the assumptions behind that decision.

Two weeks ago, we ran several Op-Ed articles that explained how there is some part of the conversation about LGBT issues that Calvin is not getting right. There are reasons why Calvin appears on the Princeton Review list and that a petition urging change is as popular as it is, in spite of all the efforts to make Calvin more LGBT-friendly. One of these reasons are background assumptions that tend to make us unfriendly. Because of these, the default position for whether things like fun, bringing along the marriage equality booths is acceptable is “no” and the burden of proof rests on the other side. (In a parallel way, the newly-released “Homosexuality and the Calvin College Community” document makes clear that the burden of proof rests on faculty members who want to demonstrate that “a change in the church’s historic position” on homosexuality is necessary (54-55).)

In some of our interviews for the fun. article, we heard it being taken for granted that bringing the marriage equality booths along was unacceptable. “In the village, there would be a pro-marriage-equality booth. That can’t hap-

pen either,” said one of the people we interviewed. Granted, part of this response might have been because other groups don’t bring advocacy booths on tour with them for any cause, but would we have had any objection to booths for world hunger? Hiding behind a statement like “that can’t happen” is a set of assumptions that aren’t being given a critical eye.

In this case, I believe that asking fun. not to bring along the marriage equality booths is a very complicated question. Because it was a decision that is now setting the tone for community conversations and conveying to the world what the Calvin community’s beliefs are, it was one that could have been made in a way more open to that community. To show that this was by no means a trivial decision, here are some arguments for both sides:

For the position that we should not have asked fun. to not bring the booths along, an argument can be built about the limits of the authority of the CRC’s official positions on homosexuality. The CRC’s positions do preclude marriage equality, and these positions are settled and binding for the positions of Calvin and its faculty and official programming. However, they are not settled and binding for all Calvin students or Calvin’s guests. By allowing fun. to bring along its booths, the college is not endorsing fun. or those booths. In fact, Calvin has made it clear that fun. is allowed to say whatever they want from the stage. Therefore, the CRC’s positions on homosexuality do not have bearing on what Calvin should or should not allow fun. to do or who they can bring.

Another argument is that hospitality and being open to the other means allowing the other to speak on their terms. We are comfortable allowing a band freedom to say what they want on stage, because the stage contextualizes what is said as a performance. At the end of the night, we can make

statements like “Fun. said that marriage equality is an important issue.” By bringing the booths along, we are letting them make moral claims on us, such as you ought to support marriage equality.” This is less comfortable because it is a confrontation, not a performance. However, part of hospitality is being open to being uncomfortable and not treating the other or a band as an artifact on stage.

There are also good reasons for not allowing the band to bring the booths along. By allowing fun. to advocate for a position in a way that other bands do not, it might seem that Calvin is endorsing their positions. In the interest of keeping it clear that the CRC’s positions are the official positions of Calvin College, the band should not be allowed to bring organizations to Calvin that advocate incompatible positions. The bracketing that being on stage provides is a part of the concert experience and is necessary for semi-disinterested critical engagement with the band, which we label discernment.

There was a weighing of these kinds of arguments, implicitly or not, behind the decision to ask fun. not to bring along its village of booths. In the decision-making process, it seemed to be assumed that the default position was “no.” This choice not only influences current thought-processes, but it forms the background for the next decision, creating a culture of a default “no.” In order to start to combat the implicit assumptions that cause Calvin to be perceived as an LGBT-unfriendly place, these kinds of decisions need to be made in the open so that we know the right questions were asked and the arguments fairly weighed.

~jsk

I get that not everybody agrees on marriage equality but that is no reason to exclude a great band from coming. ... Let’s show Christ’s love to all, not just those who we think agree with us.

From Facebook

Showing Christ’s love to all is one thing (and biblical). Inviting them to perform in the middle of campus is something else altogether. This is a band which obviously does not share the commitment to biblical truth which (I thought) Calvin College was/is committed to.

## Fun. decision in right direction

BY DAVID WITWER  
Guest Writer

I hope I’m not the only one saying this:

Thank you, Calvin College, for keeping the fun. concert.

It’s not that I’m not frustrated by the prohibition of REVERB. If nothing else, this is a startling case of poor timing given the recent Princeton Review listing and subsequent petition. I do understand why Calvin won’t give \$1 per ticket sale to CCT, since beyond increasing prices this could also be seen as financial support of an organization that opposes the CRC’s position on homosexual marriage. Still, I don’t fully understand why the presence of REVERB on campus is an issue.

Lingering frustration, however, is not the point here. Rather, this article is a genuine thank you. The last time I attempted to write for *Chimes* was

two years ago when the New Pornographers concert was cancelled. This time I’m writing because, in contrast, I trust the maturity of the decisions made. This is firstly because the concert is still being held. Secondly, it is because there will be no censorship of fun.’s performance on stage (thank God) and because something tells me the Calvin community will get the chance to ask Fun. about their music and their values. These decisions are striking to me given that the cancellation just two years ago was due to the band’s name.

This time, Calvin has an actual ethical dispute with the diplomatically titled Fun. and yet this dispute is not stopping the concert. That says to me that the situation for the arts at Calvin has greatly improved in reasonable time.

So in short, thank you, Calvin. Today I’m proud to be a student here.

it is in heaven?” Do we do justice to the central event of our faith, the resurrection, by continuing to propagate broken systems?

I emphatically believe that the answer is no, just as communism, feudalism and anarchism were and are not the final answer to the question of how to organize a divinely rooted society. Followers of Christ should take from our founder’s life this truth: when we use God and religion as excuses to oppress people or the Earth, when we think of God primarily as the High Sanctioner of the Status Quo, we have failed to adequately respond to God’s holy calling.

You do not even have to care about the value of the tigers and whales to appreciate the gravity of environmental concerns. Christians throughout history have recognized that God has what the (arch-conservative) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops terms a “preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.” Scripture tells us we will be judged by what we do for the “least of these” (Matthew 25: 31-46 NIV).

In America, the middle classes can take refuge in air conditioning, public and private pools, and ability to move. Global warming, pollution and most other ecological problems most affect the poorest and most vulnerable. This applies not only for those in the Global South and in other undeveloped countries but for anyone who cannot move to higher ground in a flood, who cannot insure their houses against more frequent hurricanes, and those who cannot flee from degraded areas because they lack income or mobility. To take our faith seriously, we must weigh the results of our actions. Liberated by God’s grace, how can we make

this world a better place for all people, not just those sitting in our sanctuaries.

I especially urge fellow liberal Christians, those who are not ensnared by culture war issues, to be shaken from their laurels and recognize that simply including more people into a system of exclusion and exploitation is not enough. Affirming that all people regardless of location, sexuality, religion or gender should be given a place in our churches is necessary but not sufficient. Nor is blindly supporting the Democratic Party an option. That party is hardly representative of what Christians hope for the world, captive as it is to neoliberal economics, unquestioned individualism and the same amoral foreign policy that Republican neoconservatives have established.

I’ll conclude with a quotation from John Cobb, a Methodist theologian: “God offers us opportunities to break out of our ruts, to see all things differently, to imagine what has never been dreamed ... Insofar as we allow God to do so, God makes all things new. Thus God is the ground of our hope. Trusting God is not assurance that whatever we do, all will work out well. It is the renewed willingness to give up the security we experience in accustomed ideas and customs and to enter into the adventure of the trusting life, even when we cannot see a favorable outcome.”

Liberals and conservatives alike should heed these words. Faith in God is not an excuse to live irresponsibly; it is a call to be open to the new and radical, to living in the world with a full presence, emptying ourselves of pride and walking humbly with the divine.

## Sustainable living a Christian calling

BY JON HIELKEMA  
Staff Writer

*The Spirit calls all members to embrace God’s mission in their neighborhoods and in the world: to feed the hungry, bring water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and free the prisoner. We repent of leaving this work to a few, for this mission is central to our being.*

“Our World Belongs to God” 41

For decades now, the people have known that the Industrial Revolution, for all the immense good it brought into the world, wrought horrific damage on our planet’s ecology. Global climate change is only the latest crisis to be brought to the forefront of our consciousness. Though we as a universal Church should be showing our culture how to treat the Earth, the sad fact is that for too long we have dragged our feet and refused to see the issue for what it is.

Many, many denominations, including my own Christian Reformed Church, have issued statements in recent years calling for more active engagement in environmental matters, but the issue is still a source of controversy and frustration.

With this editorial, I would like to make an appeal for a deeper appreciation of how Christians can be a prophetic voice against the established powers of the world, commercial, political, and religious, that are contributing to this problem and widespread ignorance of its serious implications.

God brought us out of nature and gifted us with reason and consciousness. We are a beautiful and intrinsically valuable group of beings who, despite being flawed in all we do, can not only experience the world but reflect upon and criticize our experiences. That said, we can make two mistakes in relating to the gift of the world.

First, we see ourselves as God-sent colonists driven to reshape the whole universe to the detriment of other forms of life. Second, we can repudiate technology and sink into despair or regression. Calvinists are susceptible to believing that humankind has not and cannot bring anything good into the world. Perhaps we should stop reproducing until we all die out.

Neither view is either helpful or realistic. We are fallen but not the only ones working for the reconciliation of the world. God can do great things through us, and human history testifies as much to God’s active love as to our failures.

I will not say the planet is in danger. Better to say that humans are committing a long, slow

suicide by indifference. Think of challenges like overpopulation, climate change, fisheries depletion, soil depletion, nutrient pollution in water, air pollution, invasive species, desertification, deforestation and the finitude of fossil fuel reserves. God has given us the ability to manage the gift of nature and we have failed. Progressives and conservatives alike are profoundly guilty of contributing, actively and passively, to the degradation of Earth and must repent of these sins.

I believe that (North) American society — and global culture — is trapped in an unworkable intellectual and economic system. Westerners tend to think of nature as a machine we can manipulate with impunity or as an other with no intrinsic value. Saving ourselves from catastrophe requires new ways of thinking. Consumer activism in the form of buying food from sustainable sources, installing solar panels, using more “natural” fertilizers, etc., can only be so effective if not accompanied by a fundamental rearrangement of human relations to the Earth.

As Christians, our mission is not to preserve capitalism or our favorite institutions (including denominations) but to call the world into righteousness in their relations to God and God’s creation. Are unbridled free trade and laissez-faire economics truly representative of our prayer that God’s will be done “on Earth as



photos from alexis drivers and jasonomalley

